

body, a turnable body [capable of turning] turnable about a vertical axis with respect to the movable body, and an article supporting body disposed over the turnable body, said method comprising the steps of:

halting the self-propelled carriage alongside the article handling section;

performing initial turning of the turnable body about the vertical axis [so as to cause] causing a front end of the article supporting body to face the article handling section;

moving the movable body whilst turning the turnable body about the vertical axis, [so that] positioning the front end of the article supporting body [is positioned] substantially right at a lateral side of the carriage body [so as] to face the article handling section;

performing a transfer of an article between the article supporting body and the article handling section; and

causing the article supporting body to perform a reverse operation [so as to be accommodated on the carriage] returning the article supporting body over the turnable body.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring articles to[/] and from an article handling section, using a self-propelled carriage capable of travelling along a fixed path, the carriage comprising a movable body [capable of moving] moveable in a longitudinal direction with respect to a carriage body, a turnable body [capable of turning] turnable about a vertical axis with respect to the movable body, and an article supporting body [capable of extending and retracting] extendable and retractable with respect to the turnable body, said method comprising the steps of:

halting the self-propelled carriage alongside the article handling section;

causing the article supporting body to make an extending movement;

performing initial turning of the turnable body about the vertical axis [so as to cause] causing a front end of the article supporting body to face the article handling section;

moving the movable body whilst performing intermediate turning of the turnable body about the vertical axis, and causing the article supporting body to make a retracting movement;

performing final turning of the turnable body about the vertical axis, [so that] positioning the front end of the article supporting body [is positioned] substantially right at a lateral side of the carriage body [so as] to face the article handling section;

performing a transfer of an article between the article supporting body and the article handling section; and

causing the article supporting body to perform a reverse operation [so as to be accommodated on the carriage] returning the article supporting body over the turnable body.

3. (Currently Amended) A self-propelled carriage comprising a movable body capable of moving in a longitudinal direction with respect to a carriage body, and moving means, said movable body comprising a turnable body [capable of turning] turnable about a vertical axis, and turning means[,]
having an article support body mounted over said turnable body [being mounted thereover with an article supporting body], wherein:

the movable body performs a longitudinal movement whilst the turning body performs a turning movement at least partially in a synchronised manner.

4. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled carriage according to claim 3, wherein a cover member for covering the article supporting body is located on top of the carriage body [in] such [a manner] that at least a portion [thereof] of said carriage body is turnable in unison with the turnable body.

5. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled carriage according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein the article supporting body is a fork device [capable of extending and retracting] extendable and retractable in forward and backward directions.

6. (New) The self-propelled carriage according to claim 4, wherein the article supporting body is

a fork device extendable and retractable in forward and backward directions.